* Upgradation of watermills with multipurpose use for generating electricity in remote mountain regions of Uttaranchal, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and North-East. About 2000 watermills have been upgraded.

* Centres established in underserved and underdeveloped areas to investigate and find solutions to health problems of local populations,

* Extramural projects for studying the health conditions and diseases of tribals,

* Research directed towards poverty driven diseases such as tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria, filariasis and visceral leishmaniasis,

* 670 water filters capable of removing even viruses have been installed in many rural areas. The technology was developed by CSIR.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government is attaching vital importance for encouraging and motivating scientific communities and R and D institutions to improve the response in rural areas by supporting location specific projects and innovations in rural areas and recognizing the efforts of individuals/ institutions by way of awards, fellowships and other incentives.

Central Salt and Marine Chemical Research Institute

†2211. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Scientists of Central Salt and Marine Chemical Research Institute at Bhavnagar have succeeded in manufacturing medicines from sea algae which can be used by humans and for agriculture purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Scientists at Central Salt and Marine Chemical Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar have not developed any medicine from algae. However, a process for preparing liquid biofertilizer has been developed by CSMCRI using seaweed red algae *Kappaphycus alvarezii* (US Patent 6,893,479; dated May 17, 2005). The biofertilizer enhances the growth of various crop plants when used as foliar spray. The process know-how has been transferred for commercial exploitation. Further, the laboratory has also been granted a US patent (US 7067568; June 27, 2006) on a process for preparation of biodegradable film from semi-refined kappa carrageenan, obtained from red algae *Kappaphycus alvarezii* which can be utilized for making capsules.

UNESCO report on status of Indian Science

2212. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree with the findings on the status of Indian Science, as contained in UNESCO Science Report, 2005;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, whether Government have intimated its disagreement to the UNESCO and if so, the response of the UNESCO thereto;

(c) whether Government do agree that none of the Indian Universities could be ranked in the first 20 universities of Asia; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the performance of universities in scientific disciplines?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. UNESCO Science Report 2005 has made positive comments on the status of Indian Science and lists 7 Indian Institutions of higher education in the top 20 Asian Science and Technology universities. (List given in Statement).

(d) Does not arise.